



Canada Soccer Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Diverse Amateur Player Policy

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm Canada Soccer and its Member Association's commitment to creating inclusive and respectful environments for transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse players at all levels of amateur play in Canada.

This policy establishes the eligibility framework for transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse players participating in amateur soccer programs and competitions governed by Canada Soccer and its Member Associations.

1. Policy Statement

Canada Soccer and its Member Associations are committed to providing an inclusive and safe environment to all players wanting to play and participate in soccer within Canada.

Canada Soccer recognizes the historic and ongoing barriers to participation that transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse people face in sport, and is committed to addressing these through proactive and sustained efforts.

Canada Soccer and its Member Associations are committed to ensuring that all players participating in amateur soccer are treated with dignity and respect and have equitable access to participation opportunities consistent with this policy.

Canada Soccer prohibits harassment, abuse, or discrimination within its programs. Allegations of misconduct must be reported and addressed in accordance with the Canada Soccer Code of Ethics and Conduct.

2. Definitions

Amateur – Refers to any individual registered to participate in soccer under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer or one of its Provincial/Territorial Member Association, where the activity is not classified as professional. For further information, refer to Canada Soccer's Rules and Regulations.

Players – Refers to any individual registered as a Player with Canada Soccer or with one of Canada Soccer's Member Associations.

Category – Refers to the grouping of players based on gender and age. Categories can be gender-specific (e.g., *Girls Under 11*) and are used to structure competition and development pathways.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) – The international federation for soccer (football).

Gender diverse – Refers to people whose gender identity, and sometimes gender expression (i.e., appearance), does not align with gender norms.

Gender identity – A person’s internal and individual experience of gender. Gender is not fixed and can change throughout a person’s lifetime. Gender identity may align with a person’s assigned sex at birth or differ from it.

International Federation – A global or continental governing organization for a sport or discipline, recognized by the relevant international sport authorities, that establishes the rules, regulations, and standards of competition and oversees international events for that sport.

Major Games - A large-scale, multi-sport international competitions sanctioned by recognized international or continental sport governing bodies, including but not limited to events such as the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, at which athletes represent their countries or national Olympic committees.

Member Association – Means a provincial or territorial soccer (football) association operating within Canada, which has been admitted into the membership of Canada Soccer.

Non-binary – Refers to a person whose gender identity does not fall into the man or woman gender categories. It can be used as a specific identity label or as an umbrella term. Some non-binary people identify as trans, and some do not. Other genders that fall under the non-binary umbrella include genderqueer, agender, bigender, and genderfluid.

Professional League - An organized domestic or international soccer competition in which athletes are compensated for participation, operating under formal governance and competition structures, and recognized by the relevant International Federation and/or national sport authority.

Transgender / Trans – A person whose gender identity is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. It is often used as an umbrella term to represent a wide range of gender identities. Transgender/trans is not a gender identity, but rather a descriptive word.

3. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all amateur soccer competitions and programs sanctioned or affiliated with Canada Soccer and its Provincial and Territorial Member Associations, their Districts, Clubs and players.

This policy does not apply to transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse players seeking to compete on a national team, competitions sanctioned under the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) or professional soccer.

For support on competing in a FIFA-sanctioned event that is either hosted domestically or internationally, please contact our EDI Lead at idea@canadasoccer.com

4. Policy Details: Program, Team and Registration Categories

4.1 All players including trans, non-binary, and gender diverse players, participating in amateur programming in Canada may register with a Club and team or program in the category that aligns with their gender or that they are most comfortable with.

4.2 There are no medical requirements related to gender or sex to compete in either category.

4.3 Players are not required to prove or justify (e.g., provide legal or medical documentation) their gender. Players are also not required to share that they are trans, non-binary, and/or gender diverse.

4.4 Harassment, discrimination, or attempts to prevent a player from registering in accordance with this policy are prohibited.

5. Eligibility Exceptions

This Policy applies to amateur soccer programming and competitions delivered under Canada Soccer and its Member Associations. However, where a soccer competition pathway is governed by eligibility rules established by an International Sport Organization, international federation (ex: FIFA, CONCACAF), professional leagues or major Games framework—and participation is restricted to players of a specific sex and or gender—those external eligibility requirements will supersede the eligibility guidelines outlined in this Policy for that specific competition pathway.

In all cases, this Policy is also subject to Federal, Provincial and Territorial legislation, which will take precedence where requirements conflict.

6. Actions & Responsibilities to Promote Inclusion

All members of Canada Soccer who offer amateur programming are required to comply with this policy.

In recognition that program categories do not reflect the diversity of gender and that all players participating in a given category may not be the same gender, Canada Soccer and its Member Associations should use language that respects the diversity of participants when delivering amateur soccer programming.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years or as needed.

8. Related Documents

8.1 Canada Soccer's Code of Ethics and Conduct

This document outlines the expectations for respectful, inclusive, and safe behaviour within the soccer community.

If you have experienced discrimination or harassment related to gender identity or expression:

- You may contact Canada Soccer's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Lead directly for confidential support and guidance at idea@canadasoccer.com
- If the situation involves your local club or competition, you may also reach out to your Provincial/Territorial Member Association for assistance.

For additional information, resources, and reporting options, please visit:

<https://canadasoccer.com/play-landing/safe-soccer/>

8.2 Canada Soccer's Rules and Regulations

This document provides comprehensive information on player status and eligibility.

8.3 Guidelines for Supporting Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Diverse Players

This document outlines Canada Soccer's commitment and provides guidance to soccer organizations related to amateur soccer programs in supporting and facilitating inclusion for transgender (trans), non-binary, and gender diverse players. These will be updated as needed from time to time.

8.4 Safe Sport Webpage

For more information on creating a safe and supportive environment in sports, please visit the Safe Sport website at:

<https://canadasoccer.com/play-landing/safe-soccer/>